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Telephone Douglas 2537

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

In the vast majority of cases, suits for malpractice are nothing more nor less than attempts at blackmail. A great many of them are brought, not with the idea of really fighting them in court, but as a means to make the physician compromise by paying a few hundreds of dollars and thus have the suit stopped. The argument which the clever attorney puts up is to the effect that it will cost the doctor several hundred dollars to fight the suit and that he had better have it stopped by paying a couple of hundred dollars or so to the plaintiff and thus settle out of court. How many physicians are robbed this way every year, it is, of course, impossible to say; but there must be a good many. It is this, and not the danger from a legitimate suit, which has made medical defense insurance so very profitable. A physician who is insured is not in much danger, for the blackmailer avoids suing or trying to bluff a rich corporation with salaried attorneys that can afford to fight. A general recognition of this condition of things has existed in the minds of medical men for a good many years and there has been a growing feeling that physicians should unite to protect themselves against this form of blackmailing graft. It is outrageous that a physician who has done his best for some patient, and probably has done the best that could be done, should be held up by any rascally lawyer who wishes to do so. Thus it has come about that medical organizations have undertaken the defense of their members against such unjust attacks, and have adopted what is generally known as medical defense.

On June 24th, 1909, the Council of the State Society had a special meeting to consider plans for

MEDICAL DEFENSE.

medical defense, acting under instructions from the House of Delegates. After a very careful discussion of the question, it was decided by the Council to undertake the work at once. In Pennsylvania, medical defense has been in force since 1905 and has cost the state society not over ten cents per member per year. In New York, the work was begun in 1906 and has cost the state society about fifty cents per member per year. In New York, the very first year the plan was put into operation, malpractice suits were decreased in number 25%; in the first two years of the work, not a single verdict was obtained against a member in any suit which was defended by the society. Since 1906, six other state medical organizations have undertaken the defense of their members, and in every instance the plan seems to be working satisfactorily. With these facts in view, the Council decided to undertake the work at once and to carry it on until the annual meeting, next April, when the House of Delegates may pass upon the matter as presented to them at that time. It is believed that the work can be done successfully at a cost not to exceed \$1.00 per member per year, and possibly very much less than that when the work is once started and well organized. For one additional dollar a year, or possibly less than that, you can rest assured that you will not be blackmailed out of any money by this alleged malpractice suit game. The State Society has an attorney retained to look after this work; it is no additional expense to any member; he knows that he will be defended and the suit fought to the last ditch, without compromise. A number of county medical societies have already discussed this proposed work and have written their approval to the Council; if your society has not done so, have it taken up at once, discussed, some action taken, and then advise the State Society Secretary, so that it may be a matter of record. It is quite possible that there will be some members who will not wish to pay another dollar a year, even to secure this absolute protection against malpractice suits. But doubtless the number will be small and a good many who are not now members will desire to join their county societies when they realize that this benefit—a very real and tangible one—has been added to the other benefits of membership.

Now how is the plan to work out? What must you do to secure this ample protection by the State Society? It is very simple. Indeed, the sense of the Council was

WHAT TO DO.

that the machinery should be made as simple as possible, in order to give the fullest protection and the least inconvenience to the members. In the first place, be sure that your dues are fully paid up in your county society; only members in good standing, dues paid, are eligible to this protection. That being done,

illustrated while the text is clear and concise. The volume before us treats of bones, ligaments, joints and muscles and is so arranged and adapted to the requirements of the student as to make this otherwise dry part of anatomy interesting, in fact attractive.

Treves' Operative Surgery. New (3d) Edition. A Manual of Operative Surgery. By Sir Frederick Treves, Bart., G. C. V. O., C. B., LL. D., F. R. C. S., Sergeant-Surgeon to H. M. the King, Surgeon-in-Ordinary to H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, Consulting Surgeon to the London Hospital; and Jonathan Hutchinson, F. R. C. S., Surgeon to the London Hospital. New (3d) Edition, revised and rewritten. In two octavo volumes. Volume I, 775 pages, with 193 engravings and 17 full-page plates. Half-morocco, \$6.50 net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

Diet in Health and Disease. By Julius Friedenwald, M. D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of the Stomach in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore; and John Ruhrah, M. D., Clinical Professor of Diseases of Children in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore. Second Revised Edition. Octavo of 728 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$4.00 net; Half Morocco, \$5.00 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

This is a practical, comprehensive work on Diet, prepared to meet the needs of the general practitioner, the medical student, and the trained nurse. It contains a complete account of food stuffs, their uses and chemical composition. The dietetic management of every disease in which diet plays a part in treatment is carefully considered, the article on diet in diseases of the digestive organs containing numerous diet lists and explicit instructions for administration. The feeding of infants and children, of patients before and after anesthesia and surgical operations, and the latest methods of feeding after gastro-intestinal operations, are all taken up in detail. The subject of nutritive enemata is given completely, with recipes and full instructions as to technic.

A Text-Book on the Practice of Gynecology. For Practitioners and Students. By W. Easterly Ashton, M. D., LL. D., Professor of Gynecology in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia. Third Edition, Thoroughly Revised. Octavo of 1096 pages, with 1057 original line drawings. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$6.50 net; Half Morocco, \$7.50 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

In this, the third edition of this text-book, the subject-matter has undergone a thorough revision and represents the author's present views on the advances made in gynecology and abdominal surgery. The entire book reflects the author's own opinions on both the medical and surgical aspects of gynecology.

A Text-Book of Obstetrics. By Barton Cooke Hirst, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics in the University of Pennsylvania. Fifth Revised Edition. Octavo of 915 pages, with 753 illustrations. 39 of them in colors. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$5.00 net; Half Morocco, \$6.00 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

Obstetrics for Nurses. By Joseph B. DeLee, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics in the Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Third Revised Edition. 12 mo. of 512 pages, fully illustrated. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1908. Cloth, \$2.50 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

While this work was written particularly for

nurses, the medical student also will find in it much that is useful and instructive.

The Elements of the Science of Nutrition. By Graham Lusk, Ph. D., M. A., F. R. S. (Edin.), Professor of Physiology at the University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York City. Octavo of 326 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$2.50 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

Prevalent Diseases of the Eye. By Samuel Theobald, M. D., Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, Johns Hopkins University. Octavo of 551 pages, with 219 text-illustrations, and 10 colored plates. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Cloth, \$4.50 net; Half Morocco, \$5.50 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

Politzer on the Ear. New (5th) Edition. A Text-book of the Diseases of the Ear, for Students and Practitioners. By Professor Dr. Adam Politzer, Imperial-Royal Professor of Aural Therapeutics in the University of Vienna; Chief of the Imperial-Royal University Clinic for Diseases of the Ear in the General Hospital, Vienna, etc. Translated at the personal request of the Author and edited by Milton J. Ballin, Ph. B., M. D., Assistant Surgeon, New York Ophthalmic and Aural Institute; Assistant Surgeon, Mount Sinai Dispensary, Ear, Nose and Throat Department, etc., and Clarence L. Heller, M. D. Fifth Edition, enlarged and thoroughly revised. Octavo, 892 pages, with 337 original illustrations. Cloth, \$8.00, net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

Dorland's American Illustrated Medical Dictionary. A new and complete dictionary of the terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, and kindred branches; with over 100 new and elaborate tables and many handsome illustrations. Fourth Revised Edition. By W. A. Newman Dorland, M. D., Large octavo, over 850 pages, with 2000 new terms. Philadelphia and London. W. B. Saunders Company. 1906. Flexible leather, \$4.50 net; indexed, \$5.00 net. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London.

It is practically unabridged, yet, by the use of thin bible paper and flexible morocco binding, it is only 1 3/4 inches thick. The result is a truly luxurious specimen of book-making. This edition contains over 2000 new words.

Thornton's Pocket Medical Formulary. New (9th) edition. Containing about 2,000 prescriptions, with indications for their use. In one leather-bound volume. Price, \$1.50 net. Lea & Febiger, publishers, Philadelphia and New York. 1909.

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